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BRASSIERE

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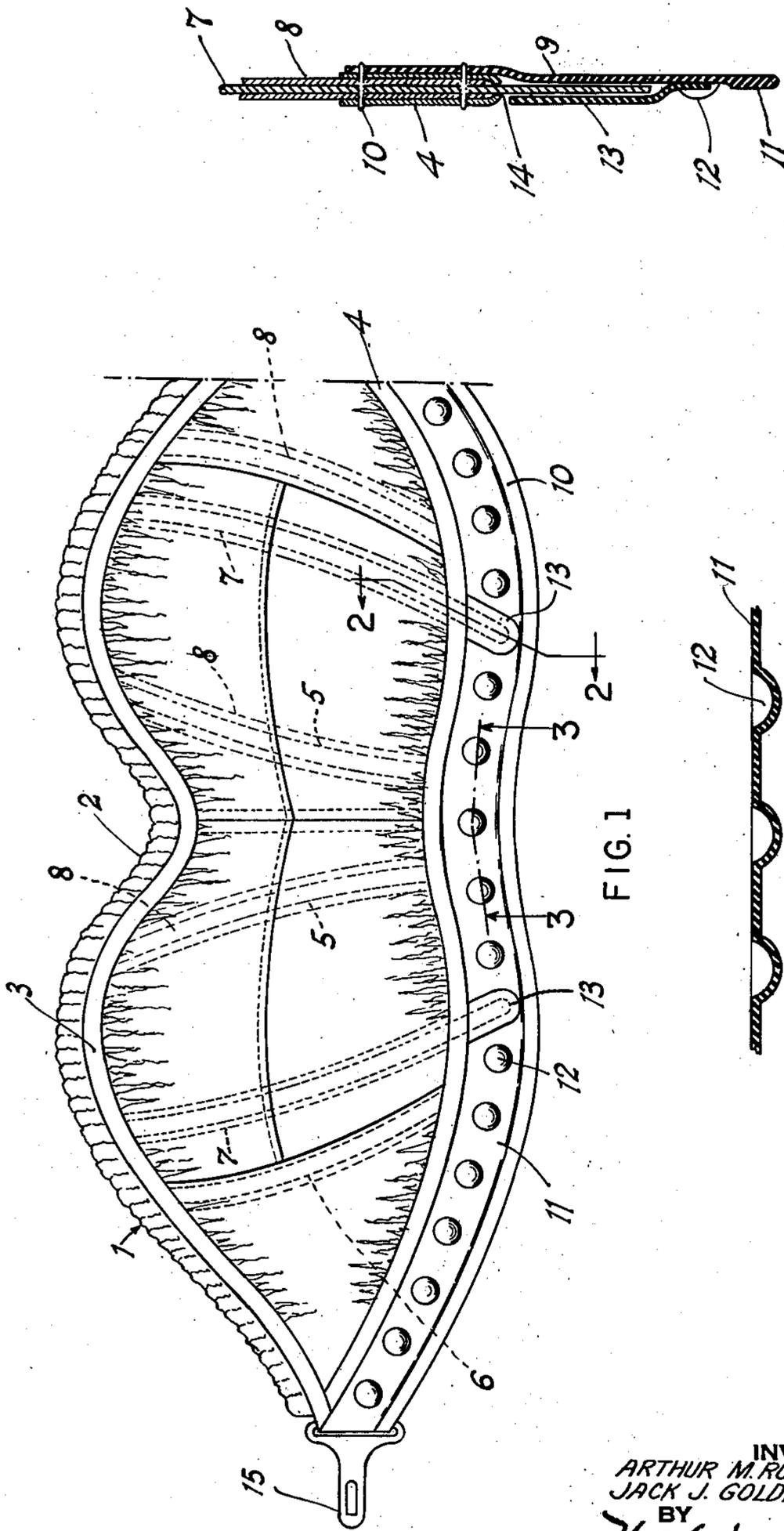


FIG. 2

FIG. 1

FIG. 3

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## BRASSIÈRE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—42)

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Our invention relates to an improvement in brassières, and has for its principal object to provide a brassière that is capable of being worn with perfect ease and comfort while it fits the wearer snugly and keeps itself at all times in proper position.

Another object is to provide a brassière having a section adapted to cling to the wearer and support the entire article, the remainder of the brassière being made of ordinary material, suitable for the purpose, to give it the required configuration.

The nature of the invention is fully described herein and the preferred embodiment is illustrated in the drawings. But the structure shown is by way of example only, and we may vary the design in minor respects without essential alteration of any of the characteristics of the article.

On said drawings:

Figure 1 is a front view of a brassière according to our invention.

Figure 2 is a section on line 2—2 in Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a section on line 3—3 in Figure 1.

The brassière is made chiefly of a piece of cloth 1 gathered or pleated in the usual way to allow distention; the upper edge being convex along each half, with a curved indentation 2 in the middle. The hem strip at the top is indicated at 3. The lower edge is curved to a less extent, being convex along each half and slightly concave at the center, and has a hem strip 4. Between the edges at the top and bottom, extend the stiffening strips or elements 5 at each side of the middle, with other strips 6 near each extremity, and strips 7 adjacent the strips 6 and between them and the strips 5. These strips are all straight and covered by flat strips of cloth 8 sewed along their opposite edges to the strip of cloth 1; but when the brassière is put on the stiffening elements bow outward, presenting the approximate curved shape depicted in Figure 1, to form the pockets or "cups" for the breasts.

Secured to the lower portion of the section 1 is a band 9 of elastic material such as rubber, made fast to the inner side of the brassière as by stitching 10 passing through the hem strip 4. The band or section 9 is flat and has a wide flat bead 11 along its lower edge. This bead is curved parallel to the strip 4 along the lower edge and is relatively thick and stiff to prevent the lower edge of the rubber from rolling or curling upward. This band has depressions in its inner face to form a row of suction cups 12, extending from end to end of the band 9 and the entire brassière. This band 9 also has pockets made by attaching strips 13 to its outer face, the pockets being open at the tops, and the strip 4 having apertures 14 so that some or all of these stiffeners can project through this strip, the stiffening elements which so project being long

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enough for their lower ends to be inserted into said pockets. All or parts of the stiffeners may be connected to the band 9 in this manner to assist the bead in holding the band flat.

The brassière can thus be worn without shoulder straps or metal parts extending round to the back. The ends of the cloth 1 are triangular, and the section 9 extends all the way to the extremities. At each end of the band 9 is a fastener 15 of any effective type; and to don the brassière the article is placed across the wearer's front and secured by the fasteners 15 at the rear. The band 9 is then pressed tightly against the skin and the vacuum cups prevent sagging. The brassière thus clings to the body below the cloth 1 in both front and back. The cloth 1 above the band 9 gives comfort and support, yielding and distending in the required manner. The brassière is thus held at all points constantly in position by the band 9, and no shoulder straps or other parts are needed.

The brassière is therefore simple and inexpensive and serves well all the purposes of the invention.

The greater degree of comfort afforded by our improved brassière is due to the fact that the suction cup effect is exerted about the wearer's body below the cloth 1. Suction cups in direct contact with the wearer's breasts would cause much discomfort and irritation.

Having described our invention, what we believe to be new is:

A brassière comprising a strip of cloth having covered stiffening elements extending across said strip, the upper and lower longitudinal edges of the cloth having hem strips, a rubber band secured along its upper edge to the lower hem strip and lower edge of the cloth, the band extending from end to end of the brassière and having vacuum cup depressions on its inner face over its entire length and a relatively thick flat bead along its lower edge, the lower hem strip having openings, the lower ends of some of said stiffening elements protruding from said openings, said band having pockets thereon at each side into which the ends of the stiffening strips protruding from said openings are inserted; and a fastening device at each end of the band.

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